

# Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 96

## The Riverside Club, Fetcham



The building above, was built in the early 1960s (now demolished) was originally called 'The Riverside Club (Golf Properties Ltd)'. It offered a 280 yard driving range - Automatic tees - a 36 hole putting green and chipping area. It had a Restaurant and a Bar - Locker Rooms and Shower - Ample Car Parking - Coaching by resident professional Harold Whiting. Later Whippet Racing and Car Boot Fairs were held in the grounds.

However, time moved on and The Riverside Club became a music venue. It gave many an up and coming 1980s band their big chance. Probably the most commercial among them were The Housemartins, who on the 16th December 1986 had their only UK No. 1 single with a cover version of the Isleys Brothers 'Caravan of Love'. It was knocked off the top spot by a re release of Jackie Wilson's 1958 hit 'Reet Petite' on 23rd December, denying them the coveted Christmas No. 1 single.

Punk Band Tenpole Tudor fronted by Edward Tudor-Pole who appeared in the Sex Pistols' film The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle and King Kurt a psychobilly rock band formed in 1981 and split up in 1988 also performed there. A compilation LP called 'Laughing All The Way to the Banks' by the various artists who appeared there was produced in 1985 and is now a sought after collector's item.

Following the demolition of the Club House a small housing estate was built.

*Goff Powell*

***For Information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours contact:***

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